



WHO IS JESUS?

Read the essay below, then talk with your parents about the ways we can know God.

At the time of the fulfillment of God's promises, The Son of God assumed a human nature in the Person of Jesus Christ. God made His love for us known in the life, Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of His only Son.

While His Sacrifice on the Cross took away our sins and defeated death, it is not the only part of Christ's life that is important. On the contrary, everything Jesus did gives us a model for how to live. The Apostles' Creed does not give us details of Jesus' life before His Passion and Crucifixion, but the Gospels do. The Gospels are the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – the four books of the Bible that tell the story of Jesus' life.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us, "I am the way and the truth and the life" (14:6). Through His life, Jesus reveals to us the truth of who He is, the life He has planned for us, and the way we are to live in order to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: "All that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day he was taken up to Heaven is to be seen in the

light of the mysteries of Christmas and Easter" (CCC 512).

Who is Jesus?

The Israelites did not expect that the promised Messiah would be God Himself. God revealed this truth to the people. Beginning at the Annunciation, the angel revealed to Mary that the child born to her would be the Son of God. "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High....Therefore the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:32, 35).

In addition to sending His angel, God the Father also spoke to the people, and the Holy Spirit was made manifest. As we learned in October, God is the Blessed Trinity: one God in Three Divine Persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, Jesus is God – He is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

How do we know Jesus is God?

This truth is revealed to us in Matthew's Gospel, where the sacred author describes the moment during Jesus'

baptism that the Blessed Trinity together proclaimed Jesus: “[H]e came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased’” (Matthew 3:16-17). God the Father spoke those same words at the Transfiguration, with the addition of a command: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Matthew 17:5).

We also know Jesus is God because, as we will learn more in the next lesson, Jesus performed miracles. Jesus performed many signs and wonders during His public ministry so people would see that He is God and believe in Him.

And finally, we know Jesus is God because, as we see in the Gospel of Mark, He had the power to forgive sins. Since all sin is an offense against God, only God can forgive sins.